The A. F. of L. Weekly News Service gives a brief summary of important matters affecting labor, occurring in the industrial, legislative and judicial fields, and such other information that will benefit the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

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Deliberate with caution, but act with decision.—Colton.

WHOLE NO. 1002. WILLIAM GREEN, President WASHINGTON, D. C., SATURDAY, JUNE 21, 1930 FRANK MORRISON, Secretary VOL. 20, NO. 15.

RAIL CLERKS' VICTORY WRECKS 'PARROT UNION'

Houston, Texas, June 21.—The Texas & Pacific Railroad is conferring with representatives of the Brotherhood of Railway Clerks.

This action follows the United States Supreme Court's decision that that railroad's "parrot union" is a mockery on collective bargaining, and that refusal to recognize the regular union is a violation of the Railway Labor Act.

Officers of the "parrot union" indicate that this echo of the rail management has collapsed.

Members of the Brotherhood of Railway Clerks are jubilant over their victory, but they are alert to the need for organization. If they permit their union to lose its aggressiveness, the same force that dissolved the "parrot union" will revive this institution and set it up as spokesmen for these employes.

The silence of anti-union elements on the Supreme Court decision is significant. They dare not criticize the court and they can not question the logic of the decision.

Their uniform policy is to ignore the decision in the hope that trade unionists will not realize its far-reaching consequences.

The unions, however, are taking a contrary position and declare they will drive "parrots" out of the rail transportation industry.

LABOR'S RADIO FIGHT BETTER UNDERSTOOD

Washington, June 21.—Labor has made no practical gain in its fight in this Congress to secure an unlimited wave length for its broadcast station WCFL, Chicago, but a strong public opinion and understanding has been developed.

"Our fight in this Congress has been preliminary to the struggle that is coming," said Edward N. Nockels, secretary Chicago Federation of Labor, and manager Station WCFL.

The bill introduced by Congressman Frank R. Reid of Illinois, is backed by labor and copies of Mr. Reid's speech on this subject are being forwarded to every union in the United States," said Mr. Nockels.

"The Reid bill would authorize the Federal Radio Commission to assign cleared channels to the Departments of Labor, Agriculture and Interior. These departments could then issue licenses to stations that are conducted in the interest of recognized labor, farmer and educational movements.

"This bill would break the air monopoly of the radio trust, which denies the people's right to even control a portion of the air in their own interests.

"If this question is understood by the people, the air monopoly is doomed. The radio trust's success depends upon popular indifference to an issue that enters into the life of every human being."

MACHINE BARS WOMEN WHEN OVER 30 YEARS

Boston, June 21.—Women over 25 and 30 years old are finding it increasingly difficult to secure employment, says Miss Caroline Manning of the United States Women's Bureau in a talk before the Social Workers' Conference here.

These women are assumed to be incompetent to manipulate machinery and perform other factory functions, said Miss Manning.

Where new mechanical devices have been installed in factories such as the cigar industry, large numbers of old employes have been dismissed and because of this arbitrary age handicap they are contributing to the unemployment problem, she explained.

If a woman can learn to run an airplane at 30 and drive an automobile at 50, said Miss Manning, she should be given a chance to demonstrate her ability to watch an automatic weighing machine or pull a lever that starts or stops a wrapping machine, since most of the modern machinery in factories requires little more attention than this.

To the woman of over 40 forced to seek a job the situation seems almost hopeless, Miss Manning had found from talking to such job applicants. One 46-year-old woman was reported as saying her husband and 4 sons seem to have passed the age when we are expected to live."

COMMUNISTS HIT ROCKS; THEIR "UNIONS" SLUMP

New York, June 21.—Communist "unions" in this country have hit the rocks, according to Ben Gitlow, writing in a revolutionary publication.

Gitlow was expelled from the "party" by orders from Moscow and he and other ousted brothers are telling tales of school.

Gitlow says the National Miners' union is a shadow and communists agree that it has less than 400 members.

The "red" National Textile Workers' Union that was supposed to lead southern workers in Gastonia and elsewhere has dropped to less than 200 members. Disaster has likewise overtaken the Independent Shoe Workers' Union, the Amalgamated Food Workers' Union and other alleged "unions" that were kept in the public eye by frenzied publicity.

BARBERS SIGN CONTRACT

Memphis, June 21.—Organized barbers renewed their wage agreement with employers.

JUDGE SUGGESTS FACISM TO YOUNG LAWYERS

Judge Frederick E. Crane of the New York Court of Appeals recently addressed several hundred graduates of a New York law school, and is quoted:

"The law, following public opinion, is more interested today in the general welfare of society than in merely individual rights."

The "law" Judge Crane refers to, is the edict of judges. These individual opinions are not the declarations of the people, through their duly-elected representatives.

"Court law," or injunction rule, is an ideal system to protect property at the cost of human rights.

Judge Crane is unusually frank. Jurists, as a rule, do not talk so plainly against the Constitution and Declaration of Independence.

The founders of our Government believed certain individual rights are inherent in man; that these rights preceded every form of government and that the fundamental purpose of government is to protect these rights

The American Government was built on this foundation.

For more than 150 years the American principle has undermined the autocratic ideal that the State is supreme and that the individual has no rights that can not be taken from him.

Mussolini revamped the autocratic ideal and garbed it in new terms. Inherent human rights are not recognized in Italy. The right of free speech, free press and to suspend work are at the disposal of the dictator, who holds as Judge Crane, that the general welfare is more important than individual rights.

This kingly reasoning makes it easy for injunction judges to smash strikes—they interfere with public convenience, patronage and prospective profits. Rights of a citizen or a group of citizens, who are wage workers, are of no moment.

How can lawyers escape being champions of government by injunction when they are taught in this Fascist atmosphere?

The logical application of Judge Crane's theory lands us in the Fascist camp and wrecks the American system of government.

These upholders of the Fascist ideal should re-read their Constitution. They might with profit consider the United States Supreme Court's decision in Ex Parte Milligan, 4 Wall. 2, decided more than 60 years ago, and also Justice Day's opinion in the Adamson case in the same court, March 19, 1917, in which he said: "I cannot agree that constitutional rights may be sacrificed because of public necessity, nor taken away because of emergencies which might result in disaster or inconvenience to public or private interests."

The organized labor movement, true to its historic mission, must challenge the doctrine that constitutional rights of the individual can be sacrificed for the convenience of others.

"RED" THEORY, NOT NUMBERS, MENACE TO AMERICAN IDEAL

—WILLIAM GREEN, President A. F. of L.

Washington, June 21.—There is no common ground between trade unionism and communism, declared Wm. Green, president A. F. of L., in testifying before the House special committee that is investigating "red" activities.

President Green refused to be alarmed over the number of communists, but their philosophy, he said, should not go unchallenged.

"The purpose of the communists is to break into organizations of labor and to mobilize discontent," said Mr. Green. "The communists know that revolution must originate among the masses of the people. Organizations have been formed to promote the communist party, to sow discord and to overthrow our government. As a condition to this precedent the communists would control or wreck the A. F. of L.

"In order to accomplish this they have organized the Workers' (Communist) Party of America, the Trade Union Educational League, the Pioneer Youth Movement and the Negro Labor Congress, directed from Moscow," warned Mr. Green. "The International of Trade Unions."

The Trade Union Educational League of America, said Mr. Green, was organized in February, 1922, under orders from Moscow. Its purpose is to develop a revolutionary spirit among workers. It is the North American section of the "Red" Internationale.

The trade unionist declared that communists appeal to intellectuals for financial aid. Some employers, hostile to trade unions, contribute, he said.

"As far as the communist is concerned, every other consideration is subordinated to his allegiance to Moscow," warned Mr. Green. "And the communist a strike is not used as a measure for securing higher wages, but in the process of bringing on the bearing of the strike on the development of the general background for revolution."

TEN MEN CONTROL GENERAL MOTORS; PUBLIC FLATTERED THEY ARE "IT"

New York, June 21.—Stockholders of General Motors Corporation increased from 83,415 on February 16, last year, to 218,413 on January 24, 1930.

The 165 per cent increase of small stockholders in less than a year is pointed to as "public ownership" of this world-flung corporation.

The facts, however, show that small investors play a small part in the disposal of the 43,500,000 common shares of this organization.

Despite the large number of small stock holders, ten individual holdings, each ranging from 250,000 shares upwards, have a working control of this corporation, through ownership of 20,000,000 shares.

The du Pont powder interests, combined with the management interest, controls 75 per cent, or 15,000,000 shares. The other important interests are the Fisher Brothers' interest and the interests of several important directors and bankers.

This small group of men control the corporation, while the public are assured that extensive ownership of small portions of this stock means an end to centralized control.

MEAT CUTTERS' HOME VOTED BY CONVENTION

Detroit, June 21.—Old age pension system and the establishment of a "ranch" home in the West for aged members was favored by the Amalgamated Meat Cutters and Butcher Workmen's International Union convention in this city.

BUILDING MEN IDLE

Boston, June 21.—Employment of building trades workers by 383 contractors decreased 1½ per cent in May, as compared with April, according to the Department of Labor and Industries. The amount paid in wages decreased 3.8 per cent.

STATE UNIONS TO MEET

Buffalo, June 21.—The annual convention New York Federation of Labor will convene in this city Tuesday, August 26.

MEN WHO WRECK CLOAK INDUSTRY WILL PAY FOR GREEDY BLINDNESS

New York, June 21.—"There will be a day of reckoning for you when the present business crisis passes," declared Benjamin Schlesinger, president International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union, at a conference with various factors in the cloak industry that discussed cut-throat competition.

"You, gentlemen," Schlesinger told the manufacturers, jobbers and retailers, "are taking advantage of the economic crisis and of defenceless workers, especially girls and women who are hard to organize, in order to force down their wages and conditions of work. But when the crisis has passed there will be a day of reckoning. The union will call you to account and the public will learn of your doings."

The conference proved to be the usual "buck-passing" affair — the inside manufacturers blaming the jobbers for the evils which exist in the industry; the jobbers blamed the inside manufacturers and both blamed the retailers who likewise protested his innocence.

President Schlesinger refused to be a party to these recriminations, which, he said, does not change the fact that the worker suffers by unreasonable competition.

The union head said, "is well informed about every manufacturer and retailer who is taking advantage of the trade unionist that they will be called to account.

The joint board maintained in this industry has fined one manufacturer $2,000 for violating his agreement.

CRIME FIGHTERS IN DEEP WATER

The Chicago Crime Commission calls on law-abiding citizens to boycott business men who assist racketeers and gangsters.

The Crime Commission is in deep water.

Organized labor attempted to boycott a racketeering employer in Arizona who was smashing living conditions of workers.

The employer's restaurant receipts dropped 50 per cent and he asked the United States Supreme Court to protect his patronage by the injunction method.

The court complied with the request.

The intangible thing called patronage was formerly considered a personal right, which was at the uncontrolled disposal of each individual.

Our august courts now hold it is "property," just as is a barrel of cement, a blast furnace or a mile of Baltimore & Ohio railroad track.

Chicago business men may give the Crime Commission a dose of one-man law, or government by injunction.

NO FIGHT IS HOPELESS

Primaries and conventions that will select candidates for Congress and for State and city offices are now being arranged throughout the country.

Privilege is pleased when men profess to have "no interest in politics."

Privilege in these cases, gladly select public officials. Men who profess such indifference to popular rule realize their mistake when they later plead for remedial legislation.

Let no worker be discouraged by the supposed strength of an opponent. Opposition has given the trade union movement its present standing.

Men don't progress by "easy" fights. They win by swinging the majority to their side.

This can only be done when workers will to do—when they have spirit and courage; when they refuse to believe they can not win.

No strike was ever lost. No fight is hopeless.

MACHINES OUST MEN; NEW PROBLEMS FACED

Detroit, June 21.—"We are in a revolutionary industrial era," declared Judge Eugene L. Sharpe, in an address to organized butcher cutters and butcher workmen, at their convention in this city.

"During the past few years," said the jurist, "we have seen the gradual substitution of machines for men in the consolidation of industries; the massing of workers, who are subject to changing business.

"New industries, such as the automobile, airplane and radio, have absorbed many workers who were replaced by machines, but they have paid dearly in these readjustments, which necessitate enforced periods of idleness and low wages.

"The skilled musician, thrown out of work by the radio orchestra, has found little consolation in the opportunity to get a unskilled worker in a factory where radio equipment is made."

NATION NOT CIVILIZED THAT IGNORES ITS AGED

Detroit, June 21.—"No nation can be classed as 'civilized' if it does not care for its aged poor," declared Judge Edward J. Jeffries, at a mass meeting in this city called to develop old age pension sentiment.

"People are being crushed under our present system, with machinery that displaces workers and destroys skill," said Judge Jeffries.

"The old-age pension is an economic necessity. Our present low-wage system and periodic unemployment has made it imperative. We must have it even though it may only be a temporary relief."

OIL POOLS FAVORED

Washington, June 21.—Secretary of the Interior Wilbur favors a new that will legalize co-operative units of oil pools.

Under this system oil operators in specified areas can unite and lessen output.

EDITOR IS SILENCED BY WAVE OF UNIONISM

Huntsville, Ala., June 21.—The wave of unionism that is sweeping this section has silenced the Huntsville Times.

This newspaper recently warned "agitators" that they would be "kicked out of town" unless they ceased their activities. The mob appeal failed, as business men publicly express their friendship for labor.

Business men agree that the low-wage policy of anti-union employers has failed. The test, the business men show, is a reduced purchasing power of unorganized employes.

The average textile wage here is $9 a week. Young girls, around 16 years of age, are paid 5 cents an hour for a 12-hour day. This $3.60 weekly wage makes poor customers for business men, who also note that the girls do the work of older employes.

Trade union sentiment has developed to the point where a central labor union, with 11 affiliates, has been perfected. Moving picture operators and electrical workers are the latest to be organized in Huntsville.

Hosiery workers in Decatur, barbers in Culman, textile workers in Athens, and workers in other sections of the State are uniting.

Sentiment toward organized labor in most of the mill towns seems to be rapidly changing, organizers report. Public meetings are being held and the discrimination policy against unionists is abandoned.

IDLENESS IN IOWA CAUSED BY MACHINE

Sioux City, Iowa, June 21.—The greatest army of unemployed workers exists in this state because of the replacement of man power by the machine, said John C. Lewis, president Iowa Federation of Labor, in his report to the annual convention.

The trade unionist called attention to the need for injunction relief, declaring that age limitations in industry is increasing unemployment.

"Men in the noonday of their life are being denied the right to earn a living simply because statistical-minded economists have created demands for young workers," he said.

Mexican immigration was declared a menace to American labor and the increase of child labor in this state was condemned.

Competitive prison labor was characterized as "infamous." The recent election resulted in the defeat of Governor Hammill for the United States Senate. He was active in defending the prison trust that exploited convicts.

MACHINISTS JOIN UNION

Asheville, N. C., June 21.—A 400 per cent membership gain within the last 60 days is reported by Machinists' Union No. 646. Similar gains are recorded throughout the State.

U. S. BIRTH RATE TAKES SHARP DROP

Washington, June 21.—The American birth rate is rapidly declining according to figures made public by the United States Bureau of Education.

In an average group of 200 Americans less than four children were born in 1928, as compared with five children born each year in a corresponding average group in 1915.

This decline is cutting down school registrations. The birth rate for the registration area has fallen without a check from 25.1 to 19.7 and the bureau statisticians expect it to continue falling. Actual decreases in the number of children in the lower grades of schools are shown even in fast growing cities.

There were 4,320,000 children in the first grade in 1920, while six years later, with a population increase of 10 per cent, there were less than 4,000,000.

In Chicago, at the end of September, 1924, there were 260,872 children in the first six grades of the regular day schools. In 1929 the enrollment was 254,666, a decrease of 6,206.

COPPER WORKERS CUT; ARE NOT ORGANIZED

Salt Lake City, June 21.—The Utah Copper Company reduced wages 40 and 50 cents a day. Profits of this concern, last year, totaled $33,000,000 after all charges were met.

These workers are unorganized and the copper barons quickly take advantage of their employes' helplessness.

Porto Rico Won't Be "Beggar"; Island Is Filched By Exploiters

Washington, June 21.—Congress voted $1,000,000 to Porto Rico. One-fifth of this fund will be used to replace schools destroyed by the hurricane, and the remainder will be used to build roads. Theodore Roosevelt, governor of Porto Rico, is in this country pleading for an appropriation of $3,000,000 to combat poverty and disease and to relieve hungry children in the island.

"This trinity of evils can not be cleared by an appropriation," declared Santiago Iglesias, secretary Pan-American Federation of Labor and Senator in the Porto Rican legislature.

"The wrongs inflicted on Porto Rico cannot be removed by doles. These people do not want to be classed as 'beggars' or dependents by those who cruelly exploit them and who throw them a crumb," said Mr. Iglesias.

"Untold wealth is taken from the island by American absentee landlords, who, have illegally seized the people's land, driven workers into the cities and towns where tobacco and sugar barons pay them a pauper wage for uncertain employment.

"Since the United States occupied Porto Rico, following the Spanish-American war, the island's exports and imports total $2,700,000,000. Two-thirds of this business and profits obtained by bankers, commerce and industry are owned in the United States, to be distributed and reinvested.

"This economic absorption, together with illegal land seizures, a wage rate of 40 and 60 cents a day and the refusal of corporations to pay taxes, has brought every conceivable ill to this prostrate people.

"Porto Rico is being drained of its resources. The island illustrates the exploitation of a helpless people, whose sustenance is being taken from them by absentee landlords."

Unionism Can Not Be Denied; Labor Will Unite, Says Green

Danville, Va., June 21.—"If workers are not permitted to openly organize, history will repeat and they will find other ways to organize," said Wm. Green, president A. F. of L., at a mass meeting in this city.

"Workers are brought into contact by their environment," said Mr. Green. "You can not prevent them from realizing that their life depends on the life of their association. If they are denied the right to openly organize, they will join secretly and attend secret, underground gatherings."

The meeting was largely composed of workers employed in the local textile mills that organized the first "industrial democracy union" in this country. This has been repudiated by employes who have affiliated with the United Textile Workers.

President Green quoted from declarations of several church and religious organizations, asserting that the churches of America believe in the right of workers to organize and have representatives of their own choosing.

If we believe in the fundamentals of Christianity, if we believe in the doctrines of the Teacher of Nazareth, what should we do for objection to a common American right?" asked President Green.

"Laborers can not be brought into contact and be kept individualistic. Our factory system has wiped out individualism in workers. It is as hard to hold back the inevitable tide as to prevent the organization of workers.

"They are brought into contact by their environment. The worker no longer lives in a hut in the hills in Virginia and North Carolina. He has been brought into congested village, factory and city life and these conditions foster organization an inevitable development.

"There have been no trade unions in the South to prevent the manufacturers from doing as they pleased. In some instances these manufacturers have attempted to exercise almost absolute social control. We can not have dictatorship here.

"Under such a management policy conditions have grown worse and worse until the manufacturers in the South have approached the verge of bankruptcy. Now let's try the other method—trade unionism. The manufacturers have failed. What can stabilize conditions except trade unions? If the wage scale is maintained and the living standard is raised, production costs will fall. We offer to help stabilize conditions through unionism.

"Increased power and wealth can be created by the cooperation of industrial and organized labor. No one is a good citizen who interferes with the right of workers to organize. The individual can not make his voice heard except through unions. The voice of the union becomes the voice of all.

"We cry out for industrial peace. We want to transfer our problems to the conference table. We are ready with industry to let us come in and work with them. If they refuse, the responsibility will be theirs."

The local Central Labor Union tendered a luncheon to Mr. Green at which business and professional men were invited. Mayor Wooding referred to President Green as "one of the honored and exalted citizens of our country."

MACHINE FILLS IDLE ARMY; NO LABOR GROUP IMMUNE

Washington, June 21.—Machine displacement of workers is not new, but the rate at which it has developed in the past ten years makes it a special problem," said Wm. Green, president A. F. of L., in urging the House Judiciary Committee to favor three Wagner unemployment bills.

President Green presented a startling list of human displacements by automatic and improved processes.

"The producing power of the average wage earner increased 11 per cent in the 20 years from 1899 to 1919, but in the short space of ten years from 1919 to 1929 (half as long) it increased 53 per cent."

"In 1918," he said, "it took one man a whole day to make 40 electric light bulbs. Next year came a machine that made 73,000 bulbs in 24 hours. Each of these machines threw 992 men out of work. In the boot and shoe industry 100 machines take the place of 25,000 men. In the manufacture of razor blades one man can now turn out 32,000 blades in the same time needed for 500 in 1913.

"In automobile factories similar changes have taken place. In a Middle Western State today a huge machine turns out completed automobile frames almost untouched by human hand. About 200 men are needed to supervise this vast machine, and they turn out between 7,000 and 8,000 frames a day. The same forces are operating in steel mills, blast furnaces, machine shops, and every other branch of production and distribution.

"These great changes have so limited the number of wage earners needed in our manufacturing industries that men and women are forced into idleness. To be sure new jobs are created in the service industries, where employment has been increasing in the last decade, but these are not nearly enough to make up for the change in manufacturing."

President Green declared that 6,000,000 new jobs are needed in this country. "Since 1919," he said, "the normal increase in population has brought over 5,500,000 more persons who want work as wage earners, while jobs in manufacturing have decreased 585,000."

FLEXIBLE CLAUSE GIVES WIDE POWER

Washington, June 21.—The flexible clause of the new tariff law permits the President to approve an increase or decrease rates within a 50 per cent limitation specified by the Tariff Commission.

The old tariff law, passed in 1922 had a similar clause, although it was charged at that time that Congress alone has the power to set rates.

Members of the Tariff Commission are appointed by the President. David Lewis, former member of the Labor group in Congress, and later a member of the Tariff Commission during the Coolidge regime, charged that that President suggested he (Lewis) sign his undated resignation as a condition of reappointment on the commission.

The inference was that if Lewis did not favor tariff changes in line with the President's views the Chief Executive would date the resignation and accept Lewis' retirement offer.

CONGRESS DEADLOCKS MUSCLE SHOALS ISSUE

Washington, June 21.—Senate and House conferees deadlocked on a solution of Muscle Shoals, and action will be postponed until the next Congress in December.

The Senate favors government operation and the House wants private operation. The latter body reversed its position on this question.

President Hoover will not approve the Senate plan, according to Congressman Allmon of Alabama after a visit to the White House.

GREEDY SHIP OWNERS BLAMED FOR DISASTER

Washington, June 21.—"Human life has been sacrificed to the greed of ship owners," said Andrew Furuseth, president International Seamen's Union, in discussing the collision between the oil tanker Pinthis and the steamship Fairfax of the Southern Pacific Steamship Company.

The collision occurred in a dense fog off Boston. Forty-seven lives were lost.

"According to newspaper accounts, the Fairfax was moving 11 miles an hour in the fog. Furuseth said. This dangerous speed was, no doubt, in obedience to the ship owners' command to make up the schedule. She was using her siren because that would annoy the passengers, it was stated. The purpose of this is to increase passenger traffic.

"The ship owner has no direct financial interest in safety at sea. He is willing to take risks to gain profits. Limitation of liability and insurance of various kinds have relieved him of any immediate loss through disaster. Insurance premiums are part of overhead expense. This, together with interest rates, sinking funds and all other charges, are assessed against passenger and freight rates.

"Passengers are thus made to pay for the privilege of being drowned or burned. Having no interest in safety, ship owners get the cheapest possible crew and thus disregard all safety rules, together with speed, signals and personnel."

TENNESSEE GOVERNOR OPPOSED BY WORKERS

Nashville, June 21.— Organized workers are lining up against the primary renomination of Governor Horton.

"He has shown his opposition to the workers' efforts to improve conditions at every opportunity," declared W. C. Birthright, secretary Tennessee Federation of Labor, speaking for the Federation's non-partisan political committee.

"He even went to the extreme of hiring the State militia to private corporations (at Elizabethton) to be used to break a strike and allowing the corporations to pay the members of the militia, to be later reimbursed by the State," said the trade unionist.

"This committee is convinced that if Governor Horton is successful at the August 7th primaries we can hope for nothing but continued oppression from the State executive."